

## The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1908.

## COMBINES AND DEMOCRACY.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, is fretting itself because of some remarks of ours in comment on the decision in the Northern Securities case, and in criticism of the Sherman anti-trust law. The Virginian-Pilot is especially disturbed because we expressed the opinion that there had been no more significant and impressive illustration of the danger from mischievous and middle-class legislation than was brought out in that decision, and for that reason it directs the attention of the public to what it is pleased to call "the singular anomaly that the Capital of this overwhelmingly Democratic State, the largest city in the State, and the former Capital of the Confederacy, finds itself, for the first time since the Civil War without a newspaper that is in harmony with Democratic policies."

In vain does The Times-Dispatch proclaim that it is a Democratic newspaper, that it believes in and advocates the true principles of Democracy; in vain does it proclaim the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson and champion them with its might; in vain does it uphold the Democratic organization in Virginia and stand for white man's rule and Southern principles. All of that counts for naught with our true blue Democrats contemporary in Norfolk. We have said that the Sherman law is mischievous, and so we are out of harmony with Democratic principles.

Is the Sherman law a Democratic measure? Was the bill introduced by a Democrat, and was it passed by a Democratic Congress? On the contrary, was it not introduced by a Republican, and was it not passed by a Republican Congress, and is it not championed to-day by a Republican President? Is not Mr. Roosevelt making a "grand-stand play" in trying to have that law enforced? Is the measure of a man's Democracy to be his championship of a Republican anti-trust law? Go to!

We are not opposed and we have never been opposed to the regulation of corporations by law. They are the creatures of government and they should be regulated by government and kept within bounds and made, within reason, to serve the public interest. They should certainly not be permitted to do that which injures the general public or that which is contrary to public policy. But that does not commit us to the folly of legislation made in response to popular clamor, which is both mischievous and dangerous to the general interest and which deprives men in co-operation of their natural rights. We hold that any law which provides in broad and unqualified terms that there shall be no sort of combination "in restraint of trade" is a dangerous law and may be a mischievous and disastrous law, according as it is interpreted.

Let us give an illustration. Several years ago there were three morning daily papers in the city of Norfolk, and two of them, the Norfolk Virginian and the Norfolk Pilot, were in strong competition. Indeed, there was a struggle for existence, and each paper owned by a separate corporation, was fighting the other as hard as it could and with all the desperation of foes in mortal combat. But by and by when the inevitable was foreseen, the officers of these two corporations came together and decided that it was sensible and necessary for them to make terms and stop fighting. Accordingly a combination was formed between these two corporations, by which the two papers were merged into one, and the hyphenated product, the Virginian-Pilot, remains until this day. As soon as the combination was formed, the entire situation changed. There was no longer a fight; there was no longer outting of rates and other devices of business warfare. The consolidated paper was put upon a business basis and the property of both companies saved from ruin and made prosperous.

Yet that same paper which has enjoyed and is enjoying the benefit of latter-day combination in trade, now appears as the great champion of anti-combine laws and undertakes to say that The Times-Dispatch is not a Democratic paper, because we have said that the law which prohibits such combines is dangerous. What, pray, is the difference in principle between the Virginian-Pilot combine and the United States Steel Corporation, or any other combine that has been formed during the past ten years? Let our contemporary practice what it preaches. If Democracy is opposed to combines, let this great and good champion of Democracy cut out its hyphen and resolve into its component parts.

## WHAT IS A DEATH SENTENCE?

General Rufus A. Ayres, formerly Attorney-General of Virginia, when asked the other day for an opinion in the case of the Alabama negro who was hanged and pronounced dead by the attending physician, but was afterwards resuscitated by members of his family, said that the negro was still in the hands of the law and could be again hanged. "The court in pronouncing the sentence," said

he, "distinctly decided that the prisoner be hanged until he is dead. It is exactly similar to the case of a man who may be sentenced to jail, but who escapes. If recaptured, he goes back to jail and serves out his term."

But is this a parallel case? When a man escapes from prison, it is his own act. He has not submitted to the law nor served out the sentence of the law. But when he is discharged from prison by the officers of the law, on the ground that he has served out his sentence he is free.

It seems to us that this was the case with the Alabama negro who was hanged. The court in pronouncing sentence said that he was to be hanged until he was dead. That is until he had ceased to live; until he should be in that state in which all the functions of life or vital powers had ceased to act. On the day of execution, the sheriff proceeded to put that sentence into effect. He placed a rope around the neck of the doomed man, sprung the trap, suspended the man between heaven and earth and kept him suspended until the attending physician declared that the prisoner was dead, that the vital functions had ceased, that the heart had stopped beating, that the pulse had stopped throbbing, that the man had ceased to breathe. According to the judgment of this expert, who in a sense at least was a representative of the law, the sentence of the court had been duly executed. The man was to all appearances dead. Indeed, we may say that the man was dead. His body was then delivered to friends and relatives and it was publicly proclaimed that the law was satisfied.

But friends and relatives undertook to bring the man to life; that is, to restore the functions of life; to set the heart to beating, the pulse to throbbing, and to put breath into the lungs, and now the man is alive again, according to report. Suppose this had happened in the days of miracles. Suppose this man had been actually raised from the dead as was Lazarus, or the son of the widow of Nain, or as Dorcas was raised by St. Peter. Would it be contended that the man could again be hanged, could again be deprived of his life?

## DELINQUENT TAXES.

One of the many admirable provisions in Senate bill No. 23, known as the Torrens bill, is that relating to the collection of taxes on registered real estate. It must be apparent to any one who will take the trouble to read this bill that, if passed, the State will never have any difficulty in promptly collecting all her taxes on lands that may be brought under the act. And while this is true, great care is also taken to protect the interests of the owner of the property, so that in no event can he be deprived of it without direct personal notice and ample opportunity to redeem. This alone ought to recommend the bill to the Legislature and insure its prompt passage. But in addition to this, the act contains a further provision which will render it exceedingly popular and beneficial to all the people, and particularly to that large class of our citizens who have invested practically their whole fortune in a humble home. For no real estate can be forfeited for the non-payment of taxes under the Torrens bill.

This is a new and original feature, introduced for the first time among civilized men, so far as we know, in the Virginia bill. It corrects a great evil and removes what the author terms "a blot upon the civilization of the twentieth century." Instead of forfeiting land, as has always been done heretofore, this Torrens bill provides that it shall be publicly sold for taxes at the expiration of the two years within which redemption is allowed under the general law, after due advertisement, as sales are made under deeds of trust; that absolute title shall be passed to the purchaser at the sale, a sound article being disposed of at an advantageous public auction; and that the proceeds of sale shall be applied, first, to the payment of all taxes and levies then due, with interest, penalty and costs, and then to the satisfaction of any claims against the property, including a bonus of five dollars to the tax purchaser at the former sale, and lastly, that the surplus shall be paid over to the previous owner.

This is simple justice, and the wonder is that it has never been seen and put into law before. Clearly the State ought not to take more than what is due her, and she ought not to take the property of one citizen and attempt to give it to another. When she sells real estate for taxes she ought always to pass absolute title and to sell a sound article; and, after satisfying all proper claims, she ought to be careful to see that the surplus proceeds are turned over to the rightful owner.

All this is simply and effectually provided for by the Torrens bill, and the Legislature should lose no time in passing this great public measure for the benefit of Virginia and all her citizens. We now have a chance to resume the position we once occupied as a leader in enlightened legislation. Will this worthy General Assembly fail to take advantage of it?

## TRUE COURAGE.

One of the most pathetic stories that we have read is the story of the suicide in Washington of Judge Leonard H. Mangum, of Arkansas. He came from a distinguished North Carolina family, and was a nephew of Senator Wiley P. Mangum, who was prominent in southern politics years ago, and one of the most distinguished of North Carolina's distinguished sons. He was a Confederate soldier and a Democrat, and received an appointment in the Treasury Department under President Cleveland. He lost his position when the Republicans came in, but was reappointed to a place in the War Department, and afterwards transferred to the Census Office through the good offices of Senator Berry, of Arkansas. At the time that Judge Mangum was appointed, Senator Berry also succeeded in having a woman from his State placed in the Census Department, and recently when retrenchment became necessary, the Senator was informed that one of his appointees must be removed.

The facts were laid before Judge Mangum, and with proverbial southern chivalry he stepped out that the woman might keep her place. Being out of employment, it is supposed that he became dependent and finally took his own life. It is a strange thing to us that a man of Judge Mangum's high character and courage and chivalry, should have gained his consent to end his life. Some people seem to think that it requires courage to commit suicide, but the contrary is true. When a man is dependent and hopeless, when troubles come upon him, when all things seem against him, it requires more courage to live than to die. It requires mainly bravery to live on and to suffer when one might his quietus make with a bare bodkin.

Saul of Tarsus, the great apostle to the Gentiles, and one of the most courageous men who ever lived, felt this when he said in one of his letters "To me to die is gain." He would gladly have laid down the burden of life and gone to his reward that he felt was sure, but there was no thought in this great man's mind of suicide. His thought was of duty. He knew that there was a work for him to do, and he had the courage to live and to do it.

Far be it from us to speak reproachfully even by inference of the dead, of the man who takes his own life. Our heart goes out in sympathy to the dependent. But we take occasion to say to our young readers and to our old readers and to all that true courage, true manliness, true womanliness is to live out one's life, to live and to do in spite of pain and sorrow and suffering. In the sight of man, and in the sight of God this is true courage. It is never courageous to give up and die by one's own hand. It is abject surrender.

I do not pray for peace.  
Nor ask that on my path  
The sounds of war shall shrill no more,  
The way be clear of wrath,  
But this I beg thee, Lord,  
Send that I may will with might,  
And in the ring of battling,  
Grant me the strength to fight!

I do not pray for arms,  
Nor shield to cover me,  
What though I stand with empty hand,  
So be it valiantly!  
Spare me the coward's fear,  
Questioning wrong or right,  
Lord, among these mine enemies  
Grant me the strength to fight!

I do not pray that Thou,  
Keep me from any wound,  
Though I fall low from thrust and blow,  
Forced fighting to the ground;  
But give me wit to hide  
My hurt from all men's sight,  
And for my need the while I bleed,  
Lord, grant me strength to fight!

I do not pray that Thou,  
Should grant me victory,  
Enough to show the world from my foe,  
And that I will to flee,  
Beaten and bruised and bled,  
Plunged like a broken sword,  
Grant me this thing for conquering—  
Let me die fighting, Lord!

—THEODORE GARRISON.

## THE FRANCHISE TAX.

As announced yesterday in our news columns, the Court of Appeals of New York has unanimously sustained the special franchise law.

The court holds that the Legislature in creating a new system of taxation, embracing a new kind of property, never taxed before, had the right to entrust to State officers the power of making the assessment and that tangible property, such as rails and poles, which had been formerly taxed by local assessors is merely incidental to the special franchise, and hence that there was no infringement upon local self government.

That is a righteous decision. All property should be taxed and a franchise is property. Sometimes it is more valuable than the physical property involved.

A so-called "Stradivarius violin" was sold at auction in Baltimore day before yesterday. The price asked that it be started at \$1,000. After much talking he got a man to offer \$10 for it, and from that figure it was run up to \$14, at which price it was knocked out to an old colored fiddler.

The market seems so much overstocked with Stradivarius as it is with copies of the United States Gazette containing a description of the cheques of General George Washington.

General Nelson A. Miles is a man who is loved by many for the enemies that he has made, as General Bragg said of Grover Cleveland. His report on the situation in the Philippines will estrange him further than ever from the President and the War Department, but it will do good and be effectual in securing better treatment for the natives. The General is soon to be retired from service by operation of law, and he can afford to be pretty independent of the carpet-knights at Washington.

As a rule, fish have been scarce and dear this season, but now we hear of a glut of herring in the upper Potomac. At Alexandria, Va., at times, they have sold as low as fifty cents per thousand, than which nothing to eat could be cheaper. But, of course, those prices have been merely transitory. The provision market is high and is likely to stay so with respect to most articles that are in constant demand by housekeepers. While herring are so numerous, sturgeon that used to be a drug in the Richmond market, sell exceedingly well. With its growing scarcity in our waters the time probably will come when it will be considered a dainty.

Hobson's habit of kissing the girls of the country was a more palatable one than Roosevelt's of kissing the babies; but the latter is likely to breed less trouble, especially where the kisser is a married man.

The marriage of so many impecunious noblemen with daughters of American millionaires has justified the substitution in those cases of the word "finances" for "fiances."

We hardly know what those "undigested securities" are that Mr. Morgan has been talking about, but judging by certain griping we have observed, we presume some Richmond speculators are holding some of the same.

The Albemarle fruit crop is not so bad

ly hurt as at first supposed. Happy is the man or woman who lives in Atlanta.

Twenty years ago a man living at Perth Amboy, N. J., made a noble sacrifice in behalf of his wife. She had stabbed a man, and in order to save her, the husband confessed to the crime, and went to prison in order that the wife might remain free and care for her child. After serving ten years he was released the other day, and when he came out found that his wife had taken up with another man. But what more could he have expected? The woman who would permit her husband to make such a sacrifice for her was not a true woman and not to be relied upon. She was untrue to herself and to her sex, and it was not to be expected that she would be true to anybody else.

A fateful mist seems to be rising over that story of the half-hanged negro that was telegraphed from somewhere in Alabama.

There are a lot of people in these parts who would love to exercise their digestion apparatus on a few of those "undigested securities." Mr. Morgan talks so glibly about it.

The sheriff of St. Louis hopes to have a quorum of the Missouri Legislature present in court on dedication day, that is to say, to-day.

With the street carnival over, and no launchings in sight the street railway fight in Newport News has been resumed. That town must have excitement.

The British have not completed the job of conquering Africa yet, at least, the Mad Mullah thinks so.

And that St. Louis yellow dog that tackled General Corbin wasn't a club canine either.

The strawberry shipping season at Norfolk has opened. The strawberry eating season will come on later at that point.

Is your fishing-tackle ready to be tackled?

The Mad Mullah continues to fail to curb his anger.

Councilmen who resign and run away may not get elected some other day.

The Mormons have been "requested" to leave Germany. They are going!

## North Carolina Sentiment.

The Charlotte Observer says: "Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$500,000 to Tuskegee Institute will bring forth fruit a hundred fold where his million and a half for a Temple of Peace in Holland will amount to very little of practical value. The smaller amount is invested for the uplift of human souls, and the larger in cold marble that will stand as a splendid travesty upon the armed camp of continental extent which the world has seen upon the floating fortresses of all nations that ply the English Channel in the very shadows of its turrets and domes."

The Raleigh News-Observer summarizes a day's news thus: "One lynching in Illinois and in Texas; white woman and negro whipped by whites for living together in Indiana; and the blowing up of a stone building in Indian Territory because the whites ordered the negroes to leave—this is Sunday's story of the dark side of race prejudice. Two of these terrible events happened in the North, one in the South, and one in the Indian Territory. There is no sectionalism in race prejudice, or in determination to punish race swiftly."

The Greensboro Telegram says: "It shouldn't be forgotten that it was in Illinois that the most recent race riot occurred. All sections of the country are vying with one another now in putting the South out of business as a producer or trouble for the negro."

The Asheville Citizen endeavors to smooth out the troubled local waters in the manner following: "The administration of a city's affairs and the every-day question of the day is not a hard common sense. If he has any. Excitement is not calculated to assist one in making a wise choice in such matters."

Newspaper readers have learned to express no surprise when they see that Prince Alois Liechtenstein of Vienna has broken out again against the Jews. He shares with Dr. Lueger the leadership of the anti-Semitic party in Austria. It is pointed out that in face of his alleged hatred of the Jewish race he married a Jewess and his home life is said to be happy. He is a member of one of the oldest families of Europe, which has married ties with the house of Hapsburg. One of the inconsistencies charged against Prince Liechtenstein is that he would make it a criminal offense for gentiles to marry Jews.

The Petersburg Index-Appeal says: Culpeper county asks the Legislature of Virginia to establish a good roads commission for that county. The request is a very commendable one, and it is to be hoped that other counties in the State will follow Culpeper's example. More than any other one thing that can be suggested for the prosperity of Virginia depends on the success of the good roads movement, now just beginning to receive recognition by the people of the State.

The Newport News Times-Herald in a column editorial defends Senator Daniel. It says: Senator Daniel has probably made more Democratic speeches in Virginia than any other man, living or dead. He has taken an active part in the campaigns since 1883 with unflinching devotion to the cause. Besides this, he has delivered many orations which illustrate the highest of our people. These things are generally known and recognized, but it is not so generally known with what activity and diligence he has paid attention to the measures of material interest to the Commonwealth for the reason that they attract but transient local attention.

The Norfolk county Democrat has these pointed remarks: "The State Senate wants to amend the new Constitution so as to enable members of the revenue to succeed themselves. This is folly, not to say a waste of time. In the first place, the change would be eminently unwise, and in the second, the people of Virginia are not going to sanction a constitutional amendment before the new fundamental law has even had a trial. Peanut politics is all too plainly at the bottom of this proposition."

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## THE MAN ABOUT TOWN.—BY—Harry Tucker

Is this summer or is it not?  
We'd like to know, right on the spot.

Two well-known Virginians were on a sleeper one time, going from Montreal to Havana.

They were traveling for their health, and they ran across a green porter. Not a color, for the porter was black, but he didn't know enough to take a trip. When they crossed the Brooklyn Bridge and got down among the palm trees of New Jersey and the magnolia groves of Pennsylvania, where they could look out the windows of the observation car and see the alligators basking in the sun along the banks of the Hackensack River two beautiful ladies got aboard.

Mr. Blank's berth had just been made, but he was off in the buffet smoking one of Colonel John Murphy's best cigars, and he didn't know about it.

When the curfew bell that was invented by Mr. Harry Glenn, sounded out upon the still air that hung around Winingham, Del., with the lights of Atlantic City in the distance, announcing that it was time to put the lamps and go to bed, Mr. Blank and General Seers gave their unfinished cigars and a couple of out-of-date newspapers to the conductor and told each other good night. But, was he him, when he struck the place where his berth used to be, Mr. Blank beheld two beautiful faces peering calmly and sweetly upon the pillows.

"Is this a dream?" he muttered, as he smote his brow and tried to fall upon his own neck.

"What's the matter?" asked the green black porter, as he came up with a whisk broom and a duster in his hands.

"Didn't I give you four plunks for this here berth?" whispered Mr. Blank in a stage whisper, loud enough to awaken everybody in the car but the two beautiful ladies.

"You show done it," said the porter. "Then shoud of my great alma mater, why is this?"

"I will never be puzzled." So was Mr. Blank.

"Come hither," said Mr. Blank. And the porter hithered.

"You got to get them ladies out of there, and you got to do it mighty quick. I will rest awhile in the buffet, and think what I shall say to the main guy of this here railroad when we get to Washington. Now, you vumoose."

In four minutes by the clock in the station at Haver de Grace the porter reappeared with a key in his face like a slice out of a watermelon.

"Fixed it," said the ebony-hued son of Ham.

He had placed the ladies in their own berth and Mr. Blank went to his couch to rest awhile.

But he couldn't find his pajama that he had carefully placed under his pillow. "Where are them pajamas?" he shouted out.

"What you call dem pajamas?" asked the porter.

"Things like these," he said exhibiting a pair of trousers, "only they're different."

As the sun crept up from behind the golden dome of the Congressional Library and placed the pajamas upon the sweetly sleeping form of Mr. Blank.

The ladies had carried them off with the baggage, and then the incident closed.

"This is a true story," said General Seers, as he finished.

And we believe him.

Where is that old straw hat? With mail, and with marks of Long use and Many pleastant hours spent On mossy bank "Neath summer's sun. With dust-stains and in keeping, Bred from closet and chest Oh! come, Dear hat of old, For these are times in which We need thee.

A Few Foreign Facts.

The King of Portugal, who recently entertained King Edward and especially his son, represent an interesting mixture of royal blood. King Carlos is only partially Latinized. He is not only a distant cousin of King Edward, but he is a near blood relation of Prince Ferdinand of Romania. The Crown Prince of Portugal represents a singular combination of families, as he is partly Portuguese, German, Italian and French. He has a greater mixture of royal blood than any other royalty.

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Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

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The Newport News Times-Herald in a column editorial defends Senator Daniel. It says: Senator Daniel has probably made more Democratic speeches in Virginia than any other man, living or dead. He has taken an active part in the campaigns since 1883 with unflinching devotion to the cause. Besides this, he has delivered many orations which illustrate the highest of our people. These things are generally known and recognized, but it is not so generally known with what activity and diligence he has paid attention to the measures of material interest to the Commonwealth for the reason that they attract but transient local attention.

The Norfolk county Democrat has these pointed remarks: "The State Senate wants to amend the new Constitution so as to enable members of the revenue to succeed themselves